



August 25, 2015
For Immediate Release

September is National Preparedness Month!

**DON'T WAIT. COMMUNICATE.
MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY.**



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH!



AMERICA'S
PrepareAthon!



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP), in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, encourages citizens to create or update their emergency plans during September, **National Preparedness Month!**

SCOP Director Dale Lane, his staff, and partners (which include the National Weather Service, MLGW, public health, law enforcement, fire services, mass care professionals, animal services, River Watch, University of Memphis, faith-based organizations, businesses, and community groups) work diligently year-round to train for disasters with drills and tabletop exercises.

"We are here to serve!" Director Lane said. "We stand ready to activate the Emergency Operations Center at a moment's notice to coordinate the disaster response. We encourage our citizens to partner with us - to take the actions necessary to prepare your families, pets, and businesses to survive those first crucial hours and days after a disaster until the professional rescuers can make the scene."

SCOP recommends taking each week in the month of September to create a ready plan:

September 1 – 5: Learn what can happen here. The most common threats in the Mid-South include earthquakes, floods, power outages, inclement weather events, terrorism, hazardous materials spills, and fires.

September 6 – 12: Create a disaster kit for home, work and auto to sustain you and your pets for seven days. Make the kit portable in case evacuations are necessary.

September 13 – 19: Make a plan for each hazard and practice your plan. Create a family communications plan by programming emergency phone numbers into everyone's cell phones

as well as ICE (in case of emergency) numbers. Keep a wallet card with emergency phone numbers with you. Have at least two meeting places in case your family members get separated - one outside the home and one elsewhere in the community.

September 14 – 26: Stay informed with a battery-powered NOAA all-hazard radio and ALERTFM. Heed the warnings. Upload free apps to your mobile device from FEMA, Ready TN, ALERTFM, and the American Red Cross. Keep a solar or car phone charger available.

September 27 – 30: Be a buddy to those who may need your assistance in a disaster. They may include single parents, the elderly, those without transportation, those with medical problems, those who live isolated, the indigent, and the homeless.

September 30 is National PrepareAthon Day! End the month by participating in National PrepareAthon Day! Count yourself among the millions who are supporting this grass-roots campaign. Follow the discussions and submit your preparedness plan!

For more information on National Preparedness Month or to sign up for the National PrepareAthon, please visit: www.ready.gov/September, www.ready.gov/prepare, www.community.fema.gov, www.beta.ready.gov/make-a-plan. To get the latest tweets about National Preparedness Month and the PrepareAthon, follow #NatlPrep or #PrepareAthon.

End of Release